

Cost-effective solutions are best developed with the cooperation of tribal governments.

When Congress enacted the Telecommunications Act in February, great emphasis was placed on ensuring the delivery of telecommunications services, including advanced telecommunications and information services, to all regions of the Nation. This principle of universal service is designed to address the exceptional needs of rural, insular, and high-cost areas and make sure those services are available at reasonable and affordable rates.

This policy was established in the belief that telecommunications services have become essential to education, public health, and public safety of all people within the United States.

Indian and Alaskan Native people live in some of the most geographically remote areas of the country, with 50 percent of Indian and Alaskan Native people living in Oklahoma, California, South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, and Washington.

Indian poverty in reservation areas is 3.9 times the national average rate. The average phone penetration rates for rural Native Americans is only 50 percent. The actual penetration rates are often much lower than 50 percent—for example, the Navajo Nation estimates that 65 percent of its citizens do not have telephones. What phone service there is in Indian country is often substandard and prohibitively expensive.

There is a continuing need for universal service in Indian country and for tribal governments to be directly involved in providing these services.

Among the recommendations in the 1995 Office of Technology Assessment report, Telecommunications Technology and Native Americans is a strengthened Federal/tribal government partnership in the telecommunications field to provide better services to persons in Indian country and to enable tribes to be direct providers of telecommunications services.

Now is the time to recognize the critical role that tribal governments can and must play in the implementation of universal service objectives.

#### PRESIDENT INVOKING EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the President is at it again. He is invoking executive privilege to shield from the public a memo written to him by FBI Director Louis J. Freeh. The memo by Freeh took the President to task for his shameful, do-nothing and say-nothing drug policy. Freeh, in what may be an understatement, criticized his boss for not providing any true leadership on the drug issue.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that Director Freeh's concerns were so warranted. We now know that drug use has skyrocketed among teens. And we know where to place the blame.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time our President has claimed executive privilege to prevent the release of embarrassing information. In fact, it is the fourth time. Any constitutional scholar knows that executive privilege

was not intended to be used for policy documents such as this one. The simple fact of the matter is that President Clinton is trying to hide embarrassing information in an election year.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the President to abandon the disingenuous tactic and hand over this document to the Congress. To do otherwise, is to damage the integrity of the White House.

S. 1505

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that the Congress has passed this important legislation. As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have been involved with efforts to amend and reauthorize the Pipeline Safety Act since last year. This bill is also very important to my home State of Alaska.

S. 1505 achieves significant pipeline safety regulatory reforms. It also recodifies many requirements contained in existing law. I want to emphasize that these recodifications are not intended to diminish or affect the Secretary of Transportation's ability to exercise regulatory discretion.

One of the most important goals of this legislation is to allow the Department of Transportation to build effective partnerships with States, the public, and industry. For example, this bill authorizes the Secretary to conduct risk management demonstration projects. These projects will allow the Secretary and industry to continue to build upon the partnerships they have been developing. We recognize the benefits of allowing pipeline operators to implement individually tailored risk management plans in place of one-size-fits-all Federal requirements.

In addition to the risk management demonstration projects, we expect that the Secretary will continue to exercise flexibility and discretion with respect to the standards and requirements of this bill and of existing law. We recognize that technological progress made by industry may result in alternative and more effective methods to achieve pipeline safety goals. It is not our intent to allow rigid requirements to prohibit the use of these innovations. For example, alternative external inspection devices using x-ray or magnetic flux technology may be more effective and cost-efficient than smart pigs when used on above-ground pipelines, such as those in pipeline facilities on Alaska's North Slope. In these situations, the Department should use the authority it possesses under existing law to exercise the flexibility necessary to achieve goals in an effective manner.

#### PUERTO RICO ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

HON. JAMES A. HAYES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, I believe it is essential that Congress

continue to work with the elected officials of Puerto Rico to provide job creation incentives that continue to bring the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico up to the economic levels of other American jurisdictions. It is unfortunate that Congress eliminated section 936 without providing a true, long term alternative program to accomplish these goals.

Nonetheless, we took an important first step in creating section 30A of the Internal Revenue Code which will provide for wage based incentives for existing companies doing business in Puerto Rico. It is imperative, however, that we do more. Next year, I am confident that the 105th Congress will work with Governor Rossello' and other government and business leaders in Puerto Rico to build section 30A in a way that provides incentives for new investment and job creation by companies not currently doing business on the island.

Together, we can develop those long term incentives that ultimately will be more efficient and effective than the program that has been eliminated.

#### DR. BERGEN MARKS HIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Dr. Stanley S. Bergen, Jr. to mark his 25th anniversary as president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey [UMDNJ].

Dr. Bergen has served the State of New Jersey with exceptional dedication, energy, and leadership that has distinguished his career as the first and only president of UMDNJ. Under Dr. Bergen's stewardship, the university has emerged as the largest public university of the health sciences in the country and serves as a national resource for health professions, education, research, patient care, and services to the community.

Through his resolve to provide educational opportunity and health care services to all the people of New Jersey, the university has grown to include seven schools on four main academic campuses statewide with programs at more than 100 affiliated educational and health care institutions in communities throughout the State.

Dr. Bergen has provided opportunities to increase representation of minority faculty and students that has made UMDNJ a national leader in minority enrollment and retention. He is recognized as a national authority on health care and a prominent leader in academic medicine in the State and the Nation.

I congratulate Dr. Bergen for a quarter century of service to the people of our State. His high standard of excellence in education, research, and patient care has brought pride and honor to our State. I wish him all the best for his continued success.